Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 49, Number 6 P.O. Box 68, Greenb elt, Maryland, 20770 Thursday, Dec. 26, 1985

Plenty of Sparkle, a Mermaid as Well Highlight Hilton's Opening Extravaganza

by Elaine Skolnik

Searchlights crisscrossed the darkened sky above the 18-story Greenbelt Hilton and Towers on November 14, signaling the grand opening of the hotel. State, county and city officials were among the 2,000 invited guests who spent the evening touring the $30 million property and sampling culinary delights prepared by Hilton chefs.



The Hilton consists of a single slim tower for guest rooms resting on a broad base. The material used is predominantly precast concrete so as to harmonize and be compatible with the adjoining office buildings in the Capital Office Park.

Located on Ivy Lane, off Kenilworth Avenue at the Beltway, the 285-room hotel occupies ten acres within the 32-acre Capital Office Park. The complex is among the 48 major priority projects identified by the Prince Georges County Economic Development Corporation as "showing especially strong promise in helping the county achieve its economic goals."

The Hilton has been described as the "counterpoint" for the office park, where four seven- and eight-story office buildings on the south side of Ivy Lane are already occupied and where four additional high-rise office buildings and a private heliport are slated for the 20-acre portion north of Ivy Lane. When complete, the Capital Office Park will contain over one million square feet of office space to serve businesses employing about 5,000 persons.

The Hilton was developed by Springhill Lake Hotel, Limited Partnership. General Partners include Albert H. Small, Theodore N. Lerner and Mark D. Lerner. Hilton Hotels Corporation is managing the facility.

Reception

The Parkdale High School band set the festive mood as guests arrived at the reception. Lighted trees outdoors and champagne indoors provided the sparkle. Open, airy public spaces on the ground floor level were the setting for the ceremonial ribbon-cutting. Here the lobby opens into an indoor pool area resembling a conservatory. It is furnished with chaise lounges upholstered in peach, mauve and light blue. (It was also furnished for the occasion with a lovely mermaid who speared seafood delicacies with a 10-foot trident and served them to guests.)

The lobby connects with an informal dining area, the Garden Room. Its step-back roof features huge skylights. This room connects with other tempting dining rooms: Sir George's, the hotel's specialty dining room, has a work of art built into the ceiling; the Zanzibar, Hilton's cocktail and dancing lounge, has dark paneled walls; and Juliana's of London, a contemporary panache with sparklers, provides a comprehensive audio library. These separate elements, some with raised floor levels, are tied together by the use of the same elegant shades of mauve, green and blue which appear throughout the facility.

The lobby's pale paving floor tiles are used everywhere for the base and also cover the sides of planters. Mahogany wall paneling adds warmth and matches mahogany trim on the angled balconies, soffits and planters. The central fountain, a spectacular wall of falling water behind glass, looks like perpetual rain and provides a pleasant focus of sound and movement.

"The interior design was in direct response to the architecture of the building," explained Ed Jenkins of the firm of Tom Lee Ltd., the New York City firm creating the decor for the hotel's interior public spaces.

Jenkins described the grand ballroom as "very contemporary" with no chandeliers. "A unique mirror ceiling with exposed light bulbs gives a starlight effect," he said. The ballroom's walls are covered in upholstered panels of mauve cloth that absorbs sound. The modern abstract sculptured carpet features an oriental design.

The ballroom, which can be divided into four separate rooms, accommodates 650 persons theater style. Adjacent and across from the ballroom are seven meeting rooms. Two deluxe executive suites equipped with audio-visual and teleconference capabilities are located on the third level, the executive floor.

Guest Rooms

Quiet, coordinated, restful colors were selected for carpets, walls, draperies and spreads in the VIP tower suites on the 17th and 18th floor. The guest room TV is concealed in an armoire, next to which stands the electric shoe polisher. The bathroom mini-TV is mounted on the wall. An attractive feature is a bay window which provides, on the south side, views of the Capitol and Washington Monument.

Designed by Hilton Design Studios, all guest rooms have sprinklers and smoke detectors. The executive floor rooms are similar to those in the VIP towers except that bathroom TV's were omitted. Other hotel rooms are well furnished, but not as spacious. The second floor houses administrative offices.

Potpourri

Recreational facilities include a heated indoor pool, outdoor pool, whirlpool, sauna, exercise room and two lighted outdoor tennis courts. A terrace is also available for outdoor functions.

Jan H. Larsen is Hilton's general manager and serves as master of ceremonies; Suzanne Carney, Director of Sales; Judith Dumrauf, Director of Catering; Tracy Marks, Food and Beverage Director; and Richard McGowen, Executive Chef. The hotel employs 250 persons.

The 238,000 square-foot structure was built in a year-and-a-half by OMNI Construction of Washington, D.C. The architecture was done by CHK Architects and Planners of Silver Spring.

(Joanne Volk also contributed to this story.)

Speakers Laud Top Quality In Greenbelt Development

by Elaine Skolnik

In speeches preceding the ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 14, city, county and state officials lauded the vision of those responsible for building the Greenbelt Hilton and Towers. In turn, representatives of the Hilton Hotels Corporation and Springhill Lake Hotel Limited partnership spoke of their pleasure in locating in such a desirable area.

Lead-off speaker Mayor Gil Weidenfeld said the city council was "particularly pleased" that the developers and management were "proud enough of our community to name the hotel Greenbelt Hilton and Towers."

Weidenfeld drew applause and a few scattered boos when he said, "From time to time, Greenbelt has been known to give developers a hard time." He explained that's because we think that Greenbelt is great, and a great location for top-of-the-line high quality development. Some developers have not shared this belief and we have expressed to them our disappointment." However, he explained, "This has not been the case with Mr. Small, Mr. Lerner and the others responsible for the Capital Office Park development and this hotel."

Adding his praise was County Executive Parris Glendening, who ticked off the following facts: Since 1981 the county has "leaped over Montgomery and Baltimore counties to rank fourth in the state in travel revenues," a $275 million industry in the county; "travel dollars generate over 6,400 jobs in the county with an annual payroll of $63 million"; "hotel-motel tax revenues generated $4.2 million for the county." He also noted that establishments like the Hilton "will provide jobs for the unskilled and semi-skilled" which helps to meet our employment goal of finding a job for everyone in the county.

Governor Harry Hughes said, "They really picked a good location. . . . There is no more exciting place than the corridor between Baltimore and Washington."

Ditto, said State Comptroller Louis Goldstein, who reminisced about attending a ribbon-cutting ceremony in 1961 when the first section of Springhill Lake Apartments was under construction. (SHL developers are also developers of the Capital Office Park and the Hilton.)

Speaking on behalf of his associates, Albert Small recalled, "Twenty-six years ago, long before the Beltway was built, our partnership bought 400 acres of ground way out here in Greenbelt, Maryland, when the tallest building in the immediate area was a two-story house. . . . Today, 26 years later, 3,000 apartments, 500,000 square feet of office buildings and Prince Georges County's finest hotel stand as living testimony to the vision and imagination of our development group and to our commitment to make Prince Georges County the equal of any in the metropolitan area. . . . By the early 1990's, another 750,000 square feet of office buildings will have been built in Capital Office Park, the Metro will be extended to Greenbelt and our development will be a one-third billion dollar project."

Carl T. Mottek of Hilton Hotels Corporation observed, "To many, our large urban hotels represent the heart of the Hilton system. Well, if they represent the heart of our system, I want you to know that this is where you can feel the pulse beat . . . Under the leadership of . . . Barron Hilton, our company is establishing many smaller, more intimate hotels in new and emerging centers of commerce, industry and recreation. No greater example of these first-class properties exists than here at the beautiful Greenbelt Hilton and Towers."

Thanks

Weidenfeld expressed the city's appreciation to the Greenbelt Hilton for its contribution to help defray the expenses of the Greenbelt All-America Cities team, which he said, would be leaving for Cincinnati "tonight" for the national competition. Greenbelt was one of 20 finalists.

S & L Rally

A march and rally will be held in Annapolis on Wednesday, January 8 to protest the savings and loan situation. A bus (free of charge to the first 40 people) will be leaving Roosevelt Center at 9 a.m. It will return to Greenbelt at 1 p.m.

Anyone interested in taking the bus should call 454-7219 during the day and 345-4699 in the evenings.

HOLIDAY REFUSE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Because of the New Year's Day Holiday, Wednesday, January 1, 1986, there will be NO PAPER PICK UP that week. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday will be on regular schedule.

Newspaper Office Closed Tuesday

The NEWS REVIEW office will be closed Tuesday night, Dec. 31. However, the office will be open Monday, Dec. 30 from 2 to 4 and 8 to 10.

Copy to be left in the News Review box at the Co-op should be deposited by 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 30.

HELP

The News Review urgently needs someone to deliver bundles of newspapers to business parks, shopping centers and some apartment offices for the next three weeks - Dec. 26, Jan. 2 and Jan. 9. Car needed, nominal pay. Please call 441-2662.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
ALFRED M. SKOLNIK, PRESIDENT, 1959-1977
Editor: Mary Lou Williamson, 441-2662
News Editor: Elaine Skolnik, 654-7423
Copy Editors: Barbara Likowski, 474-8483
Virginia Beauchamp
Bill Rowland

STAFF

Mary Jo Amani, Sandra Barnes, Dorrie Bates, Lekh Batra, Suzanne Batra, Jack Brickman, Lee Chambers, James Colman, Connie Davis, Arthur Donn, Mavis Fletcher, Joan Freeman, Judy Goldstein, Marion Harrison, Bob Hickman, Leo Hool, Peggy Hool, Lucille Jacoby, Janet James, Bonnie Jenkins, Mike Jones, Ruth Kastner, Sid Kastner, Martha Kaufman, Katherine Keene, Louise Kramer, Dorothy Lauber, Betsy Likowski, Leta Mach, Elizabeth Maffay, Ray McCawley, Mary Moien, Diane Oberg, Clarice Ollershaw, James O'Sullivan, Walter Penney, Eileen Peterson, Adrianne Plater, Steve Polaschik, Ruth Powell, Norman Scherstrom, Pearl Siegel, James Simon, Sandra Surber Smith, Llyn Tomantini, Joanne Tucker, Ottilie Van Allen.

BUSINESS MANAGER: Mary Halford; **Circulation Manager:** Mike Jones, 982-9388
Springhill Lake Circulation: Barbara Clawson, 474-4541; **News Review:** 474-4131; **Staff Photographer:** J. Henson.

Published every Thursday by Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Virginia Beauchamp, Mavis Fletcher, Barbara Likowski, Diane Oberg and Bill Rowland.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: $23 per year Advertising and news articles may be mailed (Box 68, Greenbelt); deposited in our box at the Greenbelt Co-op grocery store before 7 p.m. Tuesday or delivered to the editorial office in the basement of 15 Parkway (474-4131). The office is open Monday after 8 pm for display advertising; deadline is 10 pm. News articles and classified ads are accepted Monday from 2-4 pm and Tuesday from 8-10 pm.

Volume 49, Number 6 Thursday, December 26, 1985

Welcome Planned

Rabbi Steven Bayar of Mishkan Torah Synagogue will be welcomed home after serving his 15-day prison term, on Friday evening, December 27 at 8 p.m. All are welcome!

Rabbi Bayar was found guilty of congregating within 500 feet of an embassy (Soviet). He opted for the prison term instead of paying a fine in order to draw attention to the plight of Soviet Jewry.

Long Distance Races Saturday

The 23rd annual D.C. Road Runners Club 10 and 20 mile races will be held Saturday morning at 10 a.m. through the streets of Greenbelt and the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). A shorter fun run, 3 kilometer 1.86 miles) around the lake will start at 10:10 a.m. All Greenbelt finishers in all races who do not win an award will receive one from the Greenbelt Running Club.

This certified course starts at the Braden Field tennis courts, goes down the path to a right on Crescent then a left on Northway, left on Ridge, right on Research Road through the BARC gates down a long hill, right on Beaver Dam Road, past Soil Conservation Road about a mile beyond and turn around at the 5 mile point and return. The 20 milers do this loop twice. Ben Beach, 35, of Bethesda, won the 20 mile last year in one hour 55 minutes and twenty seconds with the last runner coming in just under three hours. A total of 135 runners finished in one of the two long races on an unseasonal (65-70 degree) day.

There is a fee for all three races. Age group awards will be given in the longer races. Sign up for the race starting at 8:30 a.m. at the Greenbelt Recreation Center near the swimming pool and Braden Field. The Greenbelt Recreation Department is co-sponsor of this race. Further information from Larry Noel 474-9362.

JAYCEES JUDGE HOLIDAY DISPLAYS

During the evening of December 24, the Greenbelt Jaycees went through Greenbelt reviewing and evaluating outdoor Christmas decorations for aesthetic beauty, originality, size, and other criteria. Plaques will be awarded to the best outdoor decorations in the various sections of Greenbelt (e.g., Old Town, Glen Ora, etc.).

Draft Deadline Nearing For Men Reaching 26

After January 1, 1986, men who were required in 1980 to register with Selective Service will be turning 26. Selective Service does not have the authority to accept registrations of men after they turn 26. Men who failed to register will have permanently forfeited their right to certain Federal student aid and job training benefits as well as Federal employment, according to a release by the Selective Service System. Additionally, registration with Selective Service is a requirement in some states for various employment opportunities, such as law enforcement agencies and permission to practice law.

Men born in 1960 who have registered, will reach age 26 in 1986 and, under present law, will no longer be eligible for selection for induction.

Many of the men who are nonregistrants may be unaware of the requirement or do not understand the importance of the obligation to register. Some have served in the military but failed to register either before entering the Armed Forces or after leaving active duty. Others may have been incarcerated at the time of their 18th birthday and not realized they were required to register if released from custody prior to age 26.

Men age 18 to 25 who have not yet registered should register promptly to avoid prosecution and/or loss of benefits. Registration takes only five minutes at any post office. Failure to register is a felony, punishable by a fine of up to $250,000 and/or up to 5 years imprisonment.

Recreation Review

Holiday Hours

Hours will be extended to the public at both the Youth Center and Springhill Lake Recreation Center during the holiday season. Facilities will be open Friday, December 27, 12 noon-10 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m., Sunday, 1-10 p.m., Monday, 12 noon-10 p.m., Tuesday, 12 noon-6 p.m., Wednesday, January 1, 12 noon-10 p.m.

Basketball Leagues

Area teams will begin competition in the Greenbelt Leagues in January. All games will be played in the Youth Center Gym. The women's league begins Wednesday, January 8, 7 p.m. and the men's league begins Sunday, January 5, 1:30 p.m. Spectators are welcome to come out and cheer for their favorite team. No admission is charged.

THANKS

To the Editor:

I would like to say Happy Holidays and thank you to all of my friends. Thank you for all the cards and gifts I received during my illness, especially the customers of High's and the American Legion Post No. 136.

Helen Rafferty

THANKS

To the Editor:

Thank you so very, very much for the wonderful article written by two of your talented reporters about our Post. That article even made our own members more proud of the "Spirit of Togetherness" between their Post and the Greenbelt Community.

We will certainly continue to keep that "Spirit" moving for the betterment of our Community in dedication of our mutual goals, "For God and Country."

John W. Parker
Commander
Greenbelt Post No. 136
the American Legion

Supports 101-mile Metro

(The following letter was sent to the News Review for publication.)

U.S. Representative Steny Hoyer
1513 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative Hoyer:

The Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club strongly supports the continued full funding of the complete 101-mile Metro system. The federal government has made a commitment to the citizens of this region to fund the development of a balanced system. Should the federal government renege on its commitment. Prince Georges County will be slighted in both miles of service and number of stations.

We believe strongly that the commitments of the United States Government ought to be kept. The members of this organization stand ready to help in your efforts to preserve this promised funding.

Robert C. Zugby,
President
Eleanor & Franklin
Roosevelt Democratic Club

Open Letter

(The following letter was sent to the News Review for publication.)

Rabbi H. Steven Bayar
Mishkan Torah Synagogue
Westway & Ridge Road
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Dear Rabbi Bayar:

The Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club supports your courageous dedication to the cause of Soviet Jewry. Your decision to suffer imprisonment in support of your position reinforces our community's understanding of the depth of your commitment to the freedom of all Jews to emigrate from the Soviet Union and to practice their religion freely.

At its meeting on December 20, 1985, the Club membership passed unanimously a resolution supporting your stand in support of all peoples' inalienable right to live free from oppression and religious intolerance. We hope the world will take note of the meaning of your sacrifice.

Robert C. Zugby,
President
Eleanor & Franklin
Roosevelt Democratic Club

Correction

Our story about the membership drive for the Greenbelt museum should have listed their goals as "100 members and $10,000," not "$100,000" as written. The extra zero, mistakenly added, might give the impression to our readers the committee is suffering from delusions of grandeur. The News Review regrets the error.

Correction

Last week's reprint of a letter from a resident of Greenhills, Ohio, omitted the writer's name — Marti Andrews.

Baha'i Faith

"The highest and most elevating state is the state of prayer. Prayer is communion with God".' — from the Baha'i Sacred Writings

Greenbelt Baha'i Community
P.O. Box 245
Greenbelt, MD 20770
345-2918 / 474-4090

Mowatt Memorial
United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Rd. 474-9410
Sunday School 11:00 A.M.
Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.
Rev. Dr. James Chong Park
Pastor
474-1924

Catholic Community of Greenbelt
Utopia
Sunday
10 a.m.

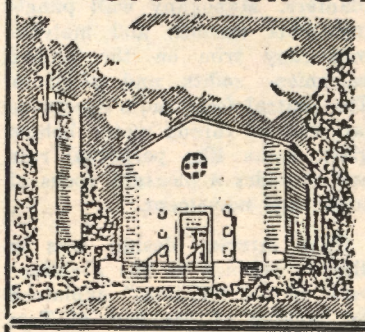
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
Episcopal
Baltimore Blvd. at Powder Mill Rd., Beltsville
8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
First Three Sundays
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
Fourth Sunday
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
Rev. John G. Bals, Rector
422-8057

Looking For Directions?
Find Them In Worship of God
GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH
474-4212
Crescent & Greenhill Roads

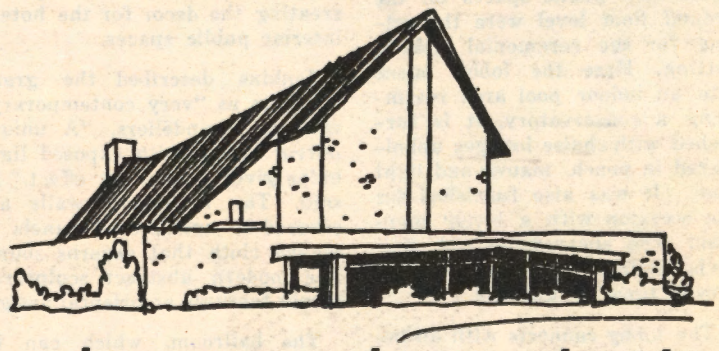
Bible Study For All Ages (Sun.)	9:45 a.m.
Worship Services	11 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Midweek Prayer Service (Wed.)	8:00 p.m.

ST. HUGH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Rev. Thomas S. Schaefer, Associate Pastor
MASS SCHEDULE:
Saturday 6 p.m.
Sunday 8, 9:30, 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m.
Daily Mass: 7:30 a.m. Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. Monday - Saturday
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 4-5 p.m.

Greenbelt Community Church



(United Church of Christ)
Hillside and Crescent Roads
Phone 474-6171 mornings
11 am Sunday Morning Worship
and
Church School for Children
Infant Care Provided at
Fellowship Center behind Church
The Rev. Daniel Hamlin,
Pastor



Holy Cross Lutheran Church
6905 Greenbelt Road
Worship Services Sunday 8:30 and 11:15 A.M.
Pre-School Program Sunday 11:15
Edward H. Birner, Pastor 345-5111

Greenbelters Tour Greenhills

Village of Greenhills, Hamilton County, Ohio

by Mary Lou Williamson

(This is the second in a series of articles on Greenbelt's sister city in Ohio. Thirteen Greenbelters toured the Village of Greenhills on November 17 following the All-America Cities competition in Cincannati).

The neighborhood streets in Greenhills have retained much of their original character. Based on circles, each small neighborhood has streets all beginning with the same letter — A through J. Some have only two or three streets, most have five or six. On B Block the main street is Burley Circle, bisected by Bachman Street and Belknap Place. Brompton Lane, Burnham St., Briarwood, Beckford, Bayham and Bradnor, "finger" streets projecting out from the circle complete the neighborhood. (See map.)

Streets

Greenbelters were interested to see the two types of new curbing in residential areas. Where federal funds have been available for street reconstruction, new rolled curbs have been built, thus maintaining the original style. Moore explained that Greenhills' status as a middle class community has kept the town from being eligible for Community Development Block Grants (the sole source of funding for the reconstruction of streets during the past decade in the original or GHI neighborhood of Greenbelt). In a few cases, an individual street has qualified for CDBG funds. Where the town has had to fund the cost of repair, Moore is experimenting with railroad ties for curbing. Incredibly, some of the original 1937 paving still exists around town.

New style street signs are replacing old traditional ones. They are 6 inch by 6 inch wooden posts with the street names written vertically and are easily read at night because they reflect automobile lights.

Unlike Greenbelt, all wiring, electrical and telephone, was placed underground in the original construction. Some of those lines are beginning to go now, says Moore. The town has front foot assessments (25c per foot) to finance its tree planting along street sides. Sidewalks, on the town right-of-way, are set back several feet from the curb. Maintenance is the responsibility of the homeowner. There are some interior walks, but not as extensive as Greenbelt's.

Community Facilities

The shopping center, too, is both the same and different. The stores are laid out in a long, shallow "U" with parking inside. In the center of the parking lot, an open-air farmers market, an original feature recently rebuilt, is used once a week during growing season. The one-way street in front, much wider than Greenbelt's Centerway, offers diagonal parking on both sides. "There are so many similarities in the shopping center." says Weidenfeld. "Appearance, the kinds of shops—a grocery (which was a co-op until it was sold four years ago), a dairy store like High's, and even an Angilo's pizza place. . . ." Among the differences —Greenhills lost its post office and now has a small branch in the Credit Union. More noticeable are the two cocktail lounges in the shopping center. One in the Bowling Alley and one in the Village Inn.

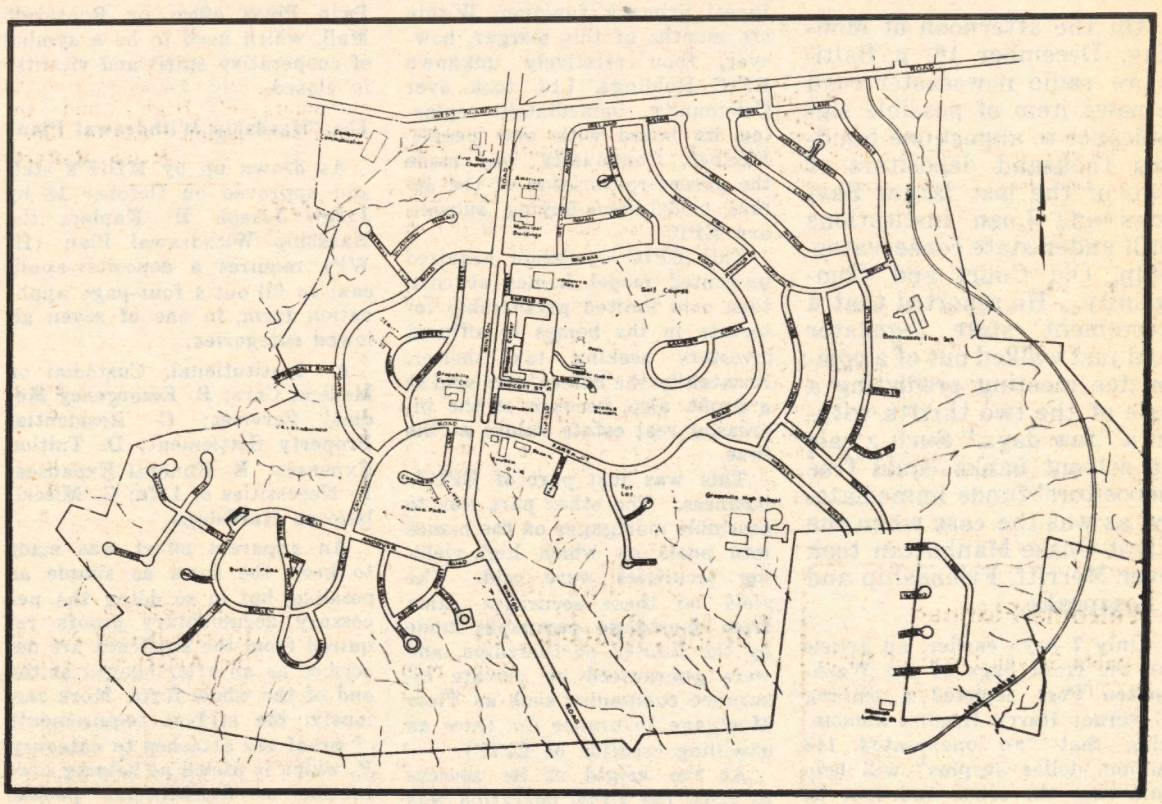
Across the street from the parking lot is the swimming pool, ". . . a dead-ringer for Greenbelt's." says Weidenfeld, including the architectural device at the far end to offer shade and "the bath house with its round windows and rotting timbers." But it was the old sycamore trees that Giese noticed. Both he and Moore dislike them and would prefer another variety. The trees in front of the shopping center at Greenhills have been replaced with Bradford Pears. Moore plans more replacements.

The large, white Community Building looks very much like Center School. But the only art deco touch is the vertical rectangle of glass bricks. Now a middle school, it houses grades six, seven and eight.

Behind the swimming pool is the old country club, perhaps a clue to the fact that Greenhills' government has been predominantly Republican.

The club has recently been sold and reopened as a restaurant, John L. Sullivan's. The town also has a par-three, nine-hole golf course. Both the club and the golf course were added in the sixties as part of the last development in the town. They were recently acquired by the town.

Two stone sculptures by Seth Velsey never made it to Greenhills. Their progress toward Greenhills was halted after Velsey was fired by the WPA and no one made the final payments to the artist for his work. The sculptures are now in a Dayton museum. "The cost of transporting them here would be prohibitive," says Brokaw, "even if we could pry them away from the museum." Brokaw is also active in Greenhills' Civic Foundation and is interested in the town's history.





The Greenhills swimming pool is a dead-ringer for Greenbelt's" commented Greenbelt's mayor, Gil Weidenfeld.

—photos by Mark Davis



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LOCATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Christmas trees may be dropped off at the following locations for pickup by the City beginning January 2, 1986.

Playground opposite 73 court Ridge Road
Corner of Research and Hillside Roads
Playground at Plateau Place and Ridge Road
Corner of Eastway and Crescent Roads
Entrance to 21 court Ridge Road, (Across from Green Ridge House)
Area adjacent to Candy Cane City
Playground at junction of Crescent and Ridge Roads
Playground at Ivy Lane and Lastner Lane
Charlestowne Village & Charlestowne North - Adjacent to Lake Park service road
University Square - Front of Swimming Pool
Lakeside North - Near Swimming Pool
Springhill Lake Community Building
Greenbriar
- Between Buildings: 7708 and 7710; 7728 and 7730
- 7826 and 7828 Hanover Parkway
- Between Buildings: 8003 and 8009 Mandan Road

Glen Oaks
- Between Buildings: 7903 and 7905; 7509 and 7511 Mandan Road

Hunting Ridge
- Between Buildings: 6936 and 6978 Hanover Parkway

Windsor Green
- Adjacent to playground on Canning Terrace
- Court Entrances: 7248 - 7294 Mandan Road
- 7200 - 7246 Mandan Road
- Entrance to Burkart Court
- Entrance to Bird Lane
- Opposite 7320 Morrison Drive
- Between 7357 and 7315 Morrison Drive
- Opposite 7430 Morrisin Dr.
- Opposite 7856 Emily's Way

Greenwood Village
- Along Mandan Terrace, Opposite 8715

Community S&L Saga Near Its End?

by Sid Kastner

On the afternoon of Monday, December 16, a Baltimore radio newscaster read a news item of possible significance to almost one hundred thousand depositors of two of the last larger Savings and Loan institutions still under state conservatorship, Old Court and Community. He reported that a prominent state legislator had just walked out of a committee meeting predicting a sale of the two thrifts within a "few days." Such a sale to solvent banks could free depositors' funds immediately, as was the case when the giant Chase Manhattan took over Merritt, Friendship and Chesapeake.

Only 7 days earlier, an article on the front page of the **Washington Post** depicted a smiling Governor Harry Hughes announcing that "an unexpected 118 million dollar surplus" will help him ease the crisis and that he will "reserve a minimum 50 million to pay off any losses resulting from resolving the savings and loan problem."

These two events may or may not signal an impending breakthrough to resolve the S&L crisis for those depositors, including Community S&L depositors in Greenbelt, Bowie, Columbia and other areas who are still locked out of their own savings. Even in the Hughes budget surplus announcement, however, a possible catch was included in the additional flat pledge that "no taxes will be increased next year," a promise to taxpayers which appears to take precedence over the governor's earlier promise to depositor's; the governor was essentially saying that state taxpayers will not be made to pay for possible losses to depositors.

Pending the outcome of these latest behind-the-scenes and front--of-the-scenes activities conducted by the state, a recent history of the crisis and review of some recent developments are given here to bring interested readers up to date.

State approaches to the Community S&L problem have been twofold in nature. One, in the behind-the-scenes category, has been to look for a "workout" to separate Community from its controversial owner, EPIC Holdings, Ltd., and various associated subsidiaries. The other has been a front-of-the-scene operation which first dissolved the MSSIC private (but state-sponsored) insurance firm and replaced it by the State-backed Maryland Deposit Insurance Fund (MDIF) under the direction of Melville Prown. Under pressure from angry depostors seeking access to their funds, MDIF has devised a plan for "hardship withdrawals."

Before describing this plan and its current functioning, and before coming to more current events in attempted resolution of the Community S&L crisis, it is worth reviewing what precipitated the crisis.

The EPIC Web

Twin Pines, an original Greenbelt Savings and Loan cooperative, was forced by MSSIC in 1982 to join a larger, supposedly more stable financial organization. It reluctantly chose Community S&L of Bethesda on the promise that the latter institution would continue to provide mortgage financing for GHI homes, which had been Twin Pines' primary function. Within six months of this merger, however, then relatively unknown EPIC Holdings, Ltd. took over Community, immediately replacing its board with new people. Further, Community was made the parent corporation of the actual model-home-buying subsidiary EPIC.

This EPIC operation acquired unwanted model homes at cost, then sold limited partnership interests in the homes to affluent investors seeking tax shelter. Eventually the homes were sold at a profit, also, because of the increasng real estate values at the time.

This was just part of EPIC's business. The other part was to assemble mortgages on the homes into pools on which high-yielding securities were sold. The yield on these securities came from mortgage payments made by the limited partnerships, and were guaranteed by private insurance companies such as Ticor Mortgage Insurance Co. (now an unwilling creditor of EPIC).

At the height of its success in 1984, the EPIC operation was taking in a million dollars every week.

However, its success was due to two key factors: ever-increasing real estate prices, and a tax structure which allowed use of residential homes for tax shelters.

Both of these factors began to fail, first with a slowing down of the housing market and then, most critcally, with the introduction of the government's tax reform proposals.

EPIC began to increase its borrowing from its "parent", to the tune of $18 million a month. Community then invested more capital in the EPIC operation and made loans to EPIC officials.

In July and August of this year, depositors withdrew $83 million from Community, increasing its already serious liquidity problem. Events now followed more quickly on each other. On August 8 the Federal Home Loan Board told Community that in order to qualify for federal insurance it must divest itself of EPIC and six other EPIC subsidiaries. Faced with the loss of its last cash resource (Community), EPIC announced on August 16 that it would default on payment of interest on the $1.4 billion of securities it had issued to investors. A two-day run on deposits at Community followed and on August 19 the governor ordered a 20-day freeze on withdrawals from Community.

Now, behind the scenes, brokerage firms Dean Witter and Salomon Brothers attempted to assemble a "workout" to provide a cash injection for EPIC. They failed however, as they admitted on September 4. The next day the State's MDIF had Community and its "subsidiary" EPIC placed under conservatorship; the limitation on withdrawals was extended indefinitely and interest rates were cut back to 5½ percent.

This is the situation as it presently stands for Community Savings and Loan. Greenbelt's Twin Pines office on Roosevelt Mall, which used to be a symbol of cooperative spirit and vitality, is closed.

The "Hardship Withdrawal Plan"

As drawn up by MDIF's staff and approved on October 18 by Judge Joseph H. Kaplan, the Hardship Withdrawal Plan (HWP) requires a depositor-applicant to fill out a four-page application form, in one of seven allowed categories:

A Institutional, Custodial or Medical Care; B- Emergency Medical Services; C- Residential Property Settlement; D- Tuition Expenses; E- Funeral Expenses; F- Necessities of Life; G- Miscellaneous Hardships.

An apparent effort was made to keep the form as simple as possible, but in so doing the necessary documentary proofs required from the applicant are described as an afterthought at the end of the whole form. More seriously, the stiffest requirements of proof are attached to category F, which is aimed at helping low-income or fixed-income people. They must submit not only a 1984 Income Tax Return, but also a "personal financial statement"! By contrast, if one wishes to take money out for property settlement, tuition or medical costs, just copies of bills need be provided — no upper level of income is set.

This paperwork burden of proof on the poor, when it was first seen by members of the depositors' movement, brought severe criticisms and predictions that few older, unemployed or disabled persons will be able to deal with the application process. This prediction has been borne out as the results to date show.

The forms are mailed to, and processed by, a HWP task force located in Glen Burnie at the state Motor Vehicle Administration building. The group of about twenty employees under manager Steven Minnich, borrowed from other state agencies such as the Department of Human Resources, was assembled during the first week of November and were given twelve computers plus office supplies to perform their function; also a toll-free number, 1-800-638-6433, was established to answer depositors' questions.

After a week of operation, however, only 300 applications had trickled in. Now, a month later, about 2800 applications have come in according to a Hughes press release, with about 2400 of those having been processed; though over 90% of the processed applications were approved. This payout amounted to nine million dollars, averaging about $5000 per successful applicant.

Two weeks before Christmas the governor announced that depositors with Christmas Club accounts could petition for the release of those funds.

The percentage of depositors which so far have taken advantage of the HWP is then only about 3%, even though Minnich was quoted as expecting "an avalanche of about 20,000 applications" or ten times as many. It is clear that whether deliberate or not, the bureaucratic process of paperwork has already prevented many in genuine need from obtaining redress.

Recent Developments

To attempt to alleviate the savings and loan catastrophe, caused indirectly by the recent governmental deregulation of financial institutions and directly by the greed of some individuals, two main forces are acting. One is the frontal attack by aroused depositors' groups, which may prove effective through political clout. Another, probably still more potent, is the economic self-interest of ten large creditors of the EPIC empire, who among them hold $700 million of the mortgage-backed securities issued by EPIC. These include Fannie Mae (Federal National Mortgage Association), Baltimore Federal Financial, Salomon Brothers, and several out-of-state banking and thrift institutions, one of the larger ones being Philadelphia Savings Fund Society, which holds $215 million of the securties.

On October 1, this creditors' group proposed a workout plan, which was approved by MDIF on October 17 but is stll subject to approval by (a) the companies who insured EPIC's securities, (b) the thousands of other investors who hold the remaining $700 million in EPIC securities, and (c) bankruptcy judge Joseph H. Kaplan.

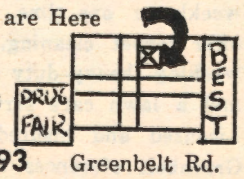
Under the workout, Community would receive from EPIC and its subsidiaries a $28 million sinking fund to be financed from the sale of partnership properties, as well as a $5 million cash payment and a $10 million, 5-year note bearing a 9% interest rate. In addition, $26.4 million in second mortgages, "previously unsecured because unrecorded," would be deemed "recorded and perfected." In this way Community would be provided with a higher priority of claim. This estimated $98 million advantage to Community would "improve the quality of Community's asset base," according to the plan's proponents.

The liability for Community's losses, which MDIF currently faces amounts to about $152 million. This would be significantly reduced if the workout succeeded, to the point — apparently — that the governor's new "surplus" might be sufficient.

Thus, if the legislator's optimistic words heard this week on the Baltimore broadcast prove true, and if Community can be sold to a stable financial institution (still to be demonstrated)), many thousands of citizens who believe themselves to be unjustly treated may yet gain some access to their savings.

Full access to depositors' money, meaning 100 cents for every dollar put into Community, is not necessarily guaranteed by the workout plan, however. This is underlined by the fact that — as depositors' groups were quick to recognize — the depositors have no representative participating in the plan, which has been "assembled" solely by the large investors.

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Center School Students Place on Honor Roll

Center School students who have received a "B" average or better for the first grading period are listed below:

6th grade — Mrs. Sturgill's Class: Michael Kramer, Weston Van Wambeke, Nancy Rodgers, Erica Mardis, Katherine Greig, Shannon Grady, Alex Collmer, Seth Hamlin, Joshua Kepler, Jessica Trimble, Natasha Coleman, Lavita Brown; Miss Marino's Class: Amy Draughn, Pippa McCullough, Abigail Boldt, Zaki Omar, Carlos Peredo, Bjorn Johnson, Anna Marie Hurst, Michelle Mays, Heather Lundberg.

5th/6th grade—Mrs. Sutton's Class: David Durgin, Mark Hinton, Lynett Belt, Lucile Gorman, Lisa Meetre, Heather Miller, 6th grade and Anna Maria Griffith, Brighid Harpe, Jennifer Thomas, Dawn Wells, Wendy Wickline, 5th grade.

5th grade—Mrs. Lubetzky's Class: Phillip Larkin, Richard Mills, Kyanna Jenifer, LaNita Hawkins, Shannon Feldpusch; Mrs. O'Connor's Class: Brandy Bryan, Daniel Wilson, Amy Mach, D'Andrea Shepherd, Dawn Kirk, Holly Berg, Maiysha Al-Fatah, Mariam Hunanian, Jean McCarthy, Heather Johnson, Anissa Leeks, Jon Patterson, Letitia Perry, Shania Hill, Leslie Ryan.

4th grade—Mrs. Bastin's Class: Mee Young Hyun, Claudia Bordas, Tara McElveen, Morgan Ahearn, Sarah Meetre, Catherine Lung, Carol Chu; Mrs. Taylor's Class: Jason Burt, Daniel Gomez, Kelley Hoza, Chris Luttrell, Linda Naini, Charone Nesbit, Julie Neumaier, Mehera O'Brien, Peter Timer, Lynn Tucker, Megan Van Wambeke, Travell Williams; Mrs. Jackson's Class: Casie Davis, Shannon Easton, Kenneth Hall, Gary Mankulish, Shannon Morman, Mark Nash, Nicole Renzi, Imelda Trimble, Renaldo Jordan, Sarita Owusu, Jason Harbin, Gregory Morehead, Lauren Zambreny, Dwayne Anderson, Keith Davenport, Kristin Willis, Anthony Lymus, Shayna Skolnik, Rebecca Bender, Melissa Duluca, and Jerry Wamaling

Greenbelter Guessed When The 1st Inch of Snow Fell

Jeanette Danahy of 10 Greenway won the Golden Shovel Award for guessing the correct date and time of the season's first inch of snow. The Golden Shovel Award is given every year by Weatherman Bob Ryan of Channel 4 News. As part of the award Ryan shoveled Danahy's sidewalk. The first inch of snow accumulated at 4 p.m. on Friday, December 20.

Our Neighbors

Martha Kaufman 474-9359

Our condolences to Peggy Foman on the death of her father. She is a first grade teacher at Center School.

Spec. 4 William E. McCormick, son of S. J. McCormick of 73 Ridge Road, has graduated from the U.S. Army Nuclear Biological Chemical (NBC) specialist course at Fort McClellan, Alabama. The eight-week course covered NBC reconnaissance, weapons training and use of decontamination equipment, chemical and biological defense, radiological defense and how to operate instruments to measure radiation.

Airman Douglas A. Hutchins, whose father is David A. Hutchins of 65 Ridge Road, has graduated from the U.S. Air Force avionics instrument systems course at Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois. During the course, he learned about the operation and maintenance of aviation and electronics instrument systems. He also earned credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Hutchins is scheduled to serve with the 60th Avionics Maintenance Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, California.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Don't forget to let us hear from you about any events at your house!

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Greenbelt

Recreation Department

474-6878

NEW YEAR'S EVE

SLEEPOVER

WHO: Children ages 6 to 12 years

WHEN: December 31, 1985, 7:30 p.m. to January 1, 1986, 10 a.m.

WHERE: Greenbelt Youth Center

COST: $20 per child; $10 for each additional child in same family.

REGISTER: At Youth Center Business Office before 5 p.m. December 26.

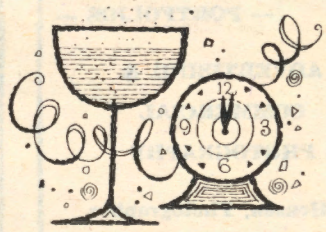
Your Child is sure to have as much fun on New Year's Eve at our "Sleepover" as you will during your evening out!!

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BUSCH BEER 12 oz. can CASE **$7.99** 12 PACK **$4.19**

Police Blotter

Based on Information Released By the Greenbelt Police Department

Clayton Troy Fowler, age 20, of Riverdale, died December 17 at Prince Georges General Hospital, where he had been hospitalized since November 23 following an industrial accident at the Best Products store at Beltway Plaza. Fowler suffered head injuries when he fell from a scaffold to a concrete floor while doing electrical work. His death was ruled accidental by the medical examiner.

About 11 p.m., December 16 a purse was snatched from a young woman carrying two bags of groceries at 7826 Hanover Parkway. The suspect was a black male, 20 to 25 years, 5'9", 150 lbs, wearing a light brown ski cap, plaid flannel shirt, blue ski vest, jeans and sneakers.

A young woman reported that her apartment at 6156 Springhill Terrace was entered on December 17 through a bedroom window by a man who attempted to assault her where she had been asleep in another bedroom, but was frightened away before the assault was completed. He was a white male, 17 to 20 years, 170 lbs., with dark collar-length hair, wearing a dark sweat shirt.

An indecent exposure was reported on December 13 at 6003 Springhill Drive. The suspect has been tentatively identified and detectives are investigating.

About 3 a.m., December 15 Cpl. Danny Love arrested a 23-year old Hyattsville man at Jasper's Restaurant at Greenway Center who had become disorderly and refused to leave. He was charged with assault and battery and resisting arrest after he struck the arresting officer. There were no serious injuries.

Stolen from a construction site in the 8200 block of Mandan Road on December 13 was a piece of construction equipment described as a Pierce Arrow "Hole Hog" valued at approximately $5,000.

The Greenbelt Hilton Hotel on Ivy Lane reported two video cassette recorders stolen on December 13 from a conference room.

On December 14 a residence at 7730 Hanover Parkway was broken into by forcing a patio door. A video cassette recorder and cash were taken.

On December 17 two suitcases valued at $100 were stolen from a storage bin at 6106 Breezewood Court.

A suitcase containing assorted clothing was stolen from a parked auto at 9012 Breezewood Terrace on December 17.

On December 14 an attempt was made to enter a residence in the 4 Court of Southway by forcing a rear door and window. Entry was not gained.

On December 16 an attempted burglary was reported at 9302 Edmonston Road. A coat hanger was used to force a window. Nothing was reported taken.

On December 17 Cpl. Thomas Miskell recovered a gray 1984 Toyota Pickup, Md. X24944, in the Springhill Lake area. The truck had been reported stolen from the 5900 block of Cherrywood Lane on December 15. There were no arrests.

On December 17 an attempt was made to steal a 1984 Datsun 200 SX from the parking lot at 163 Westway.

A 1985 Dodge truck was vandalized at 6201 Springhill Drive on December 17.

On December 13 two windows were broken out of a building under construction at the Golden Triangle.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE OFFERS CELEBRANTS SAFE RIDES

Prince Georges County Sheriff James V. Aluisi has announced that the Department will make available a ride home to anyone who is unable to drive because of celebrating the holidays. The service will be provided through January 1.

To participate in the program, call 952-4000. A Deputy Sheriff will be dispatched to take people home safely

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IRS Moves Office To Landover Site

Internal Revenue Service Office formerly located in the Penn Silver Office Building, 5408 Silver Hill Road. Forestville, has moved to a new location at Metro-Plex I, Room 300, 8401 Corporate Drive, Landover.

The office is now open for business at the new location from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. During the filing season, taxpayer assistance will be offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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CLOSED SUNDAYS
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121 CENTERWAY, GREENBELT • PRICES EFFECTIVE MONDAY, DEC. 30 THRU SATURDAY, JAN. 4

FRESH QUALITY MEATS

U.S.D.A. Fresh RIB END Pork Roast $1.39 lb.

U.S.D.A. Fresh Center Cut Rib Pork Chops 1.99 lb.

Fresh Grade "A" Chicken Legs 89¢ lb.

Co-op Lean Boneless Sirloin Tip Roast $1.99 lb.

Fresh Lean Ground Beef $1.39 lb.

U.S.D.A. Fresh Pork Spare Ribs $1.39 lb.

Frozen New Zealand Spring Leg O' Lamb $1.59 lb.

Frozen 30-40 Count Raw Shrimp 3.99 lb.

Co-op Lean Boneless Eye Round Roast 2.79 lb.

Silver Floss Bag 2 lbs. Sauerkraut 59¢

DELI

ESSKAY SWEETKORN DELI HAM $2.69 lb.

MASH'S DELI STYLE CORNED BEEF $2.99 lb.

SWIFT GENOA OR HARD SALAMI $3.29 lb.

FRESH POTATO SALAD 59c pt.

NOW SAVE TWICE AS MUCH WITH
DOUBLE COUPONS*
With $10.00 minimum purchase excluding coupon items, .50¢ coupon maximum

MONEY SAVING GROCERY SPECIALS

Totino's Frozen Party Pizza 69¢
Pepp.-Saus.-Cheese 10.10 oz.
Limit one per family, Good 12/30-1/4/86
With this coupon and $10 min. purchase.

Bumble Bee Chunk Light TUNA 49¢
Oil or Water 6½ oz.
Limit one per family, Good 12/30-1/4/86
With this coupon and $10 min. purchase.

Banner 4 Pk. Toilet Tissue 69¢
Limit one per family, Good 12/30-1/4/86
With this coupon and $10 min. purchase.

7-UP Reg. or Diet $1.39
6 pk.-16 oz. N.R.
Limit one per family, Good 12/30-1/4/86
With this coupon and $10 min. purchase.

Green Giant - 16 oz. W.K. Corn-French or Sliced Green Beans 2 for 89¢

FAB 42 oz. LAUNDRY DETERGENT $1.79

Kraft Qt. Mayonnaise $1.59

CANADA DRY 28 oz. SODA MIXERS Ginger Ale-Club-Tonic 2 for 99¢

Red & White 16 oz. Sauerkraut 3 for 99¢

New! Campbells 11 oz. Nacho Soup 69¢

Furman's 16 oz. Sweet Peas 3 for 89¢

Texaco 1 Gal. Anti-Freeze $3.99

Brawny Jumbo Roll Paper Towels 59¢

Red & White 1 lb. SPAGHETTI Reg.-Thin.-Vermicelli 39¢

Prego 15½ oz. Plain-Meat-Mush. Spaghetti Sauce 89¢

Herr's 12 oz. POTATO CHIPS Reg. or Ripple $1.59

VLASIC Pt. Kosher Baby Dills or Sweet Gherkins 89¢

Kleenex 175's Facial Tissue 89¢

Nabisco Snacks 7 oz. Triscuits-Wheat Thins Better Cheddars - 24 Varieties $1.19

Purina 5 lb. Dog Chow $1.99

DAIRY DEPT.

Steger's Maryland Fresh 1 dz. Large Eggs 79¢

Kraft 1 lb. ¼'s PARKAY MARGARINE 59¢

Red & White 8 oz. Cream Cheese 79¢

FROZEN DEPT.

Citrus Hill 12 oz. Orange Juice 99¢

BANQUET DINNERS 11 oz. Beef,-Chic.-Turkey-Salis. 79¢

Red & White 10 oz. Corn-Peas-Spinach Fr. Green Beans 2 for 89¢

FARM FRESH PRODUCE

Florida Oranges 10 for 89¢

FLORIDA White Grapefruit 4 for 99¢

Red or Golden 3 lb. bag Delicious Apples 79¢

Florida Tangelos 6 for 49¢

ANJOU PEARS lb. 49¢

All Purpose 10 lb. bag White Potatoes 79¢

Eastern Carrots 2 lb. bag 39¢

Yellow Onions 3 lb. bag 59¢

Meduim Green Peppers lb. 49¢

Loose Roasted Peanuts lb. 79¢

BEER & WINES

Red, White & Blue BEER 6 pk. 12 oz. cans 1.59

Andre CHAMPAGNE 750 ml. $2.99

Natural Light BEER 12 pk.-12 oz. cans $5.69

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SATURDAY: 9–12

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